

San Juan County



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SAN JUAN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

October 16, 2017

Christina Price, Field Manager
Moab Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
82 East Dogwood
Moab, Utah 84532

Re: Canyon Country District March 2018 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Dear Christina:

We have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) for the March 2018 Oil and Gas Lease Sale and concur with these assessments. In the EA we did note the absence of reference to certain documents which should be included as noted below.

Section 1.6 of the EA, Relationship to Statutes, Regulations or Other Plans should also list Utah H.B. 393, Energy Zones Amendments. This legislation established an Energy Zone (primarily the eastern half of San Juan County) in which energy and mineral exploration and production would be emphasized and expedited. All 2018 sale parcels within San Juan County are within this energy zone. Leasing of the proposed parcels would be consistent with direction in this legislation.

Reference should also be made to the San Juan County Resource Management Plan (RMP) of July 18, 2017. Leasing of the proposed parcels would be consistent with guidance in the County RMP. County policy supports balanced and responsible natural resource development. Lands with mineral and energy potential should be open to development with stipulations providing for reasonable mitigation of impacts to other resources. (Policy #1, page 54 of the RMP). County policy also emphasizes consistency with H.B. 393, Energy Zones Amendments.

As noted in a previous comment, oil and gas operations are an important contributor to a diversified county economy and the County supports leasing as a necessary step toward realizing economic benefits.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Nick Sandberg
County Planner

cc: Don Hoffheins

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